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Message Text

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47
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 CPR-02 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W
---------- 052645
P R 021628Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1475
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 345
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, UNGA, LI (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R.)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT MAY ATTEND UN SPECIAL SESSION

REF: MONROVIA 1835

OUAGADOUGOU AND ACCRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM;
LOME FOR AF DIRECTOR LOUGHRAN

1. I ASKED PRESIDENT TOLBERT LATE LAST EVENING WHETHER HE INTENDED TO ATTEND SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA. HE SAID HIS ATTEND-ANCE WAS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY BUT HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND AND WOULD LET ME KNOW ONCE A FIRM DECISION MADE. THIS CAME AT THE END OF SIX AND ONE-HALF HOURS OF CEREMONIES WELCOMING HIS RETURN DURING WHICH NO RPT NO LIGHT WAS SHED ON THE RESULTS OF HIS WHIRLWIND VISITS TO SEE CHIEFS OF STATE OF ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA, AND LIBYA. IN FACT, TONE OF WELCOME-HOME SPEECHES AND TOLBERT'S RESPONSES LEFT IMPRESSION HE IS DISAPPOINTED WITH RESULTS HIS TRIP. JOINT COMMUNIQUES OF DISCUSSIONS IN SAUDI
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ARABIA AND LIBYA WERE READ VERBATIM WITH TOLBERT STATING THAT

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FURTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS TRIP WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL A FULL DISCUSSION IN THE CABINET. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IF TOLBERT HAD GOOD NEWS TO ANNOUNCE HE WOULD WITHHOLD IT.

2. ON CONTRARY, SIGNS ARE THAT TOLBERT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THREE ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE GAVE HIM LITTLE REASON TO HOPE THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WILL PROVIDE ANY PROMPT AND MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE TO BLACK AFRICAN NON-PRODUCERS TO AMELIORATE IMPACT SPIRALING OIL PRICES ON THEIR ECONOMIES. BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE AT NOON TODAY THAT A RELIABLE SOURCE IN NEW YORK HAD INFORMED UK DELEGATION THAT TOLBERT WOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND SPECIAL UNGA AND HAD ASKED TO BE INSCRIBED AS SPEAKER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BOUMEDIENE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE TOLBERT HAD RECEIVED SUCH SHORT SHRIFT FROM ARAB LEADERS CONCERNING PLIGHT OF AFRICAN NON-PRODUCERS THAT HE FEELS HE MUST MAKE STATEMENT IN UN FORUM, PARTICULARLY IN HIS CAPACITY AS VICE PRESIDENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND LIBERIA'S MEMBERSHIP ON SURVEY GROUP APPOINTED AT LAST NON-ALIGNED SESSION.

3. FURTHER, YESTERDAY, JOHN MEEK, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF DANIEL J. EDELMAN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM WHICH HANDLED LAST SUMMER'S PRESIDENTIAL TRIP, ARRIVED IN TOWN IN RESPONSE TO CABLE FROM STEPHEN TOLBERT SENT FROM LIBYA. MEEK UNDERSTANDS HE IS TO ACT IN SAME CAPACITY AS LAST SUMMER.

4. ABOVE WOULD INDICATE PRESIDENT TOLBERT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ATTENDANCE AT SPECIAL SESSION. WE CONTINUE BELIEVE TOLBERT WILL HOPE ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IF TRIP MATERIALIZES. EMBASSY WILL TRY ASCERTAIN WHAT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MATTERS TOLBERT MIGHT PLAN BRING UP.
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